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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 158208 132235Z

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 158208

BUJUMBURA FOR CHARGE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AMGT RW BY

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

- 1. PROVIDED BELOW IS THE RWANDA/BURUNDI SITREP CIRCULATED IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR JUNE 13. THE SITREP IS CLASSIFED CONFIDENTIAL.
- 2. BEGIN TEXT OF SITREP:

RWANDA/BURUNDI SITREP FOR JUNE 13

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 158208 132235Z SITUATION ON THE GROUND

RWANDA

RPF FORCES LAUNCHED A MAJOR ATTACK ON GITARAMA SUNDAY NIGHT, JUNE 12 AND ROUTED GOR FORCES. UN OFFICIALS REPORT THAT SELF-DECLARED INTERIM PRESIDENT SINDIKUBWABO AND SEVERAL OF HIS MINISTERS FLED GITARAMA THREE TO FOUR DAYS EARLIER FOR GISENYI, A PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AND ARMY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER DATE/CASE ID: 23 JAN 2004 200301564

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

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Document Number: 1994STATE158208 Channel: n/a

STRONGHOLD IN THE NORTHWEST. (REUTER/UNAMIR)

INTENSE FIGHTING ERUPTED IN KIGALI SUNDAY MORNING AND RPF FORCES APPEARED TO BE ADVANCING ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF GIKONDO, A GOVERNMENT TROOP AND MILITIA STRONGHOLD IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY. (REUTER)

A GERMAN AND A FRENCH PRIEST REPORTED THAT ON SATURDAY, JUNE 11 MILITIAS EMPTIED 170 CIVILIANS FROM A SCHOOL COMPOUND IN THE NYAMIRAMBO DISTRICT, WHICH WAS THE SCENE OF A MILITIA ATTACK LAST THURSDAY IN WHICH A FRENCH REPORTER WAS WOUNDED. THE PRIESTS LATER SAW 10 BODIES FROM THE SAME GROUP IN FRONT OF A TRUCK USED BY THE MILITIAS TO TAKE AWAY THE CIVILIANS AND SURMISED THAT THE ENTIRE GROUP HAD BEEN MASSACRED. (REUTER)

THE AIRPORT AT KIGALI IS STILL CLOSED AND UNAMIR EVACUATIONS OF CIVILIANS FROM THE CITY REMAIN SUSPENDED. CONVOYS FROM UGANDA, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO BRING IN UN RELIEF SUPPLIES. (PRESS GUIDANCE 6/13)

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 158208 132235Z
UN-SPONSORED CEASE-FIRE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOR AND THE RPF
WERE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 11 AND ARE SCHEDULED TO RESUME
TODAY. NO PROGRESS IS EXPECTED. (PRESS GUIDANCE 6/13)

(C) (CLOSE HOLD) UN SOURCES REPORT THE GOR HAS SENT A LETTER TO THE SYG REQUESTING THAT GENERAL DALLAIRE BE REMOVED AS UNAMIR COMMANDER.

BURUNDI

- (C) IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCE OF KIRUNDO, APROXIMATELY 100 RWANDAN REFUGEES WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED SUNDAY NIGHT BY EITHER BURUNDIAN ARMY UNITS OR TUTSI MILITANTS AFTER THE FIVE-TRUCK CONVOY IN WHICH THEY AND SOME 250 OTHER REFUGEES WERE TRAVELING IN WAS STOPPED BY BURUNDIAN ARMY UNITS AND REQUIRED TO CAMP FOR THE NIGHT. (EMBASSY BUJUMBURA TELCON)
- (C) THE GRB'S DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN MET FURTHER RESISTANCE OVER THE WEEKEND THAT MAY HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. ON SUNDAY, HUTU MILITANTS AND THE TUTSI-DOMINATED ARMY FOUGHT THREE SEPARATE BATTLES ON

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Current Handling: ONLY

Document Number: 1994STATE158208

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

THE OUTSKIRTS OF BUJUMBURA. ON FRIDAY NIGHT, THE TWO SIDES SKIRMISHED AGAIN IN NYAMBUYE, IN THE HILLS EAST OF BUJUMBURA, WHERE FIGHTING WAS FIRST REPORTED ON THURSDAY. THE CENTER OF BUJUMBURA, WHERE THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY RESIDES, WAS NOT AFFECTED. (BUJUMBURA 002061)

(C) MEANWHILE, INTER-ETHNIC TENSIONS REMAINED HIGH AFTER TWO SEPARATE BOMBINGS OF BARS IN BUJUMBURA FRIDAY AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 158208 132235Z SATURDAY NIGHTS, IN WHICH AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL SERIOUSLY INJURED. (BUJUMBURA 002061)

(C) A GRB ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A NEW PRESIDENT WOULD BE IN PLACE BY JULY 1, DESPITE AN IMPASSE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITION, AND THE START OF ARRESTS OF LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL HUTU LEADERS ACCUSED OF INSTIGATING THE OCTOBER MASSACRES HAVE PUT BOTH SIDES ON EDGE.
(BUJUMBURA 002061)

DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES

- (C) UN ENVOY ABDULLAH MET WITH A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICER IN THE GRB ARMY ON FRIDAY NIGHT AND REPORTS THE ARMY IS PREPARED TO RELAX EARLIER CONDITIONS ON ITS COOPERATION WITH THE EXPANDED UNAMIR OPERATION. LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DARADANGWE SAID THE ARMY, HOWEVER, WILL TAKES ITS CUE FROM THE UGANDAN MILITARY, WHICH HAS BEEN IN RECENT TOUCH WITH THE BURUNDIAN MILITARY. (BUJUMBURA 002037)
- (C) BURUNDI'S INTERIM PRESIDENT NTIBANTUNGANYA'S HAS DECIDED TO ATTEND THE OAU MINISTERIAL, INCREASING PROSPECTS FOR A CONCERTED DISCUSSION OF THE RWANDA CRISIS BY AFRICAN HEADS-OF-STATE. (BUJUMBURA 002036)
- (C) ZAMBIA IS PLANNING TO DEPLOY ITS COMMANDO BATTALION TO RWANDA, ACCORDING TO ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL NOBBY SIMBEYE. (LUSAKA 003537)

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 158208 132235Z

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 3

· Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Current Handling: ONLY

Document Number: 1994STATE158208

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

(C) A DART TEAM VISITING THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OF BURUNDI LAST WEEK FOUND THREE UNDERSTAFFED UNHOR CAMPS HANDLING A COMBUSTIBLE, BUT THUS FAR MANAGEABLE MIX OF BURUNDIANS DISPLACED BY LAST OCTOBER'S UNREST, BURUNDIANS RETURNING FROM REFUGEE CAMPS IN RWANDA, AND REFUGEES FLEEING THE RECENT CARNAGE IN RWANDA. THE TEAM FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THE RWANDAN REFUGEES ARE BEING TURNED AWAY OR FORCED TO RETURN TO RWANDA. LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE COOPERATED WELL WITH THE UNHOR. (BUJUMBURA 002038)

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Page: 4